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**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 2153**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/877,576

Filed: June 8, 2001

Inventor(s):  
Michael A. O'Connor

Title: A METHOD OF  
ALLOCATING STORAGE  
IN A STORAGE AREA  
NETWORK

Examiner: Edelman, Bradley E.  
Group/Art Unit: 2153  
Atty. Dkt. No: 5181-72700

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Rory D. Rankin

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

7/6/05

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF**  
**MAY 6, 2005**

**Mail Stop AF**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O.Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action of May 6, 2005, to further highlight why the application is in condition for allowance.

Please amend the case as listed below.